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on our hands. We would have within ourselves an inexhaustible fund of enjoyment, that would never leave us at a loss for a subject upon which to dwell. We could then bear to be left alone for a few moments, without suffering any lassitude of thought from our own reflections. We would then rationally enjoy existence, without being obliged to fly so often for satisfaction to those trifling, and in many cases, pernicious amusements, that so much occupy the time and attention of the vain and thoughtless. We would then hear less of how we are to spend what is called leisure hours. The theatre, the tavern, the gaming-table, with other ruinous and pernicious modes of killing time, as it is termed, would not so much as be thought of. And even perhaps the practice of music, would, on a proper regulation and renovation of mind and manners, lose much of its wonted charms. "Indeed there is no need to drive that away by foolish diversions, which flies away so swiftly of itself;" and every item of which should be deemed so precious, as to leave no leisure for idle and unprofitable pursuits.

It should be a question of some importance, whether a wise man has any idle hours at all. His time and attention are fully occupied, not in the sordid, groveling, low pursuit of worldly gain, and gratification of his sensual appetites, but in the acquisition of useful knowledge, the knowledge and practice of genuine religion, which teaches all who submit to its wise injunctions, so to pass their time, as at its conclusion to enjoy the pleasing reflection, that they have not altogether lived in vain, but in some degree fulfilled the duties assigned them.

N.S.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FOURTEENTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN IRELAND.

To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond, &c. &c. Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,
WE the undersigned, commissioners appointed for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted by public or private donations, for the purposes of education, into the state and condition of all schools upon public or charitable foundations in Ireland, beg leave to submit to your Grace the result of our anxious deliberations, on the subject of extending and improving the education of the lower orders of the people in this part of the United Kingdom. We have not been deterred from entering upon this subject, by the difficulties peculiar to this country, with which we are aware it is attended, and we have been anxious, as early as possible, to meet the expectations of your Grace and the government of Ireland, whose solicitude on the subject of a plan for the general education of the lower orders of the people of Ireland, to be suggested by this Board, was evinced in the letter addressed to our Secretary, on the 17th day of January, 1811, by your Grace's late principal Secretary, the Right Hon. Wm. Wellesley Pole.

We have applied our efforts to the framing of a system, which, whilst it shall afford the opportunities of education to every description of the lower classes of the people, may, at the same time, by keeping clear of all interference with the particular religious tenets of any, induce the whole to receive as benefits as one undivided body, under one and the

same system, and in the same establishments.

That the present establishments for the instruction of the lower orders, though extremely numerous, are inadequate as a system of general education, we were fully convinced in the course of our inquiries into their extent and condition; and their insufficiency, we have reason to believe, is very imperfectly supplied by the unendowed schools, though their number appears, by the returns made to government in the year 1808, to bring as great a proportion every where to the population, as in most other parts of the United Kingdom; so that if they were duly attended to, and under the care of masters properly qualified, the lower orders of this country would have less reason, perhaps, to complain of their education being neglected, than those of England, or even of Scotland itself; at the same time, we are encouraged by this circumstance to hope, that if a scheme for such improvement was judiciously planned, and carefully executed, it would meet with very general success, from the favourable disposition, and strong desire for education, prevailing universally among those, to whom the means of obtaining a more complete and effectual course of it, would thus, we may presume, be not more frankly offered, than cordially accepted.

That such will be its acceptance, we shall indulge the more confident expectation, if all interference with the particular religious tenets of those who are to receive that instruction, shall, in the first instance, be unequivocally disclaimed, and effectually guarded against. We conceive this to be of essential importance in any new establishments for the education of the lower classes in Ireland, and we venture to express our unanimous opinion, that no such

plan, however wisely or unexceptionably contrived in other respects, can be carried into effectual execution in this country, unless it be explicitly avowed, and clearly understood, as its leading principle, that no attempts shall be made to influence or disturb the peculiar religious tenets of any sect or description of Christians. How a strict forbearance from any such attempt may be rendered consistent with a considerable degree of religious instruction in general, we trust, may appear in the sequel of this report, to the proper subject of which we shall proceed to solicit your Grace's attention, after a short recapitulation of the subjects and substances of the reports which we have already presented, and a review of what may be considered as the present state and extent of the several provisions for the education of the lower classes, as deduced from these reports, and from the returns of the unendowed schools already alluded to: observing, however, that to these must be added a considerable number of Roman Catholic seminaries in various parts of Ireland, particularly in great towns, supported principally, we believe, by bequests, private contributions, and subscription, but of which we have not any accurate returns.

The principal objects of the inquiries in which we have been employed, may be reduced to two heads, the schools endowed for classical education, and those endowed for gratuitous education, in reading, writing, and arithmetic, only; in many of which schools, the children of the lower orders are not only educated, but clothed and maintained.

Of the former description, some are of Royal foundation, some under the board of Erasmus Smith; twenty are endowed of the same number of dioceses, under an Act passed in

Ireland, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; and about fifteen were founded by the munificence of private individuals.

The schools of Royal foundation are those of Armagh, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Raphoe, Cavan, Banagher, and Carysfort, the united endowments of which amount to £5,800 per annum, and the number of scholars taught in them, at the time of making our report, to about 360, but of these very few are instructed gratis, there being a general reluctance to accept of such a favour.

The Classical Schools, under the direction of Erasmus Smith's Board, are those of Drogheda, Galway, Tipperary, and Ennis, the united endowments of which may be estimated at £1,000 per annum, and the number of scholars at the time of making our report upon them was 277.*

The Diocesan Schools are those Tuam, Ardagh, Cashel, Kildare, Down, Connor, Leighlin, Ferns, Elphin, Meath, Limerick, Ardfort, Killaloe, Derry, Dromore, Cork, Ross, Clogher, Cloyne, and Ossory, the united emoluments of which amount to about 820*l.* per annum, and the number of scholars to about 428.

The classical schools of private foundation are in number about 15, the most important of which, those of Navan and Ballyroan, were the subject of our second report, to which, as we are unwilling to repeat it, we beg leave to refer; on the remainder, as we have very recently laid an account of them before

your Grace, in our twelfth report, we think it unnecessary to enter into any detail.

Under the second head above mentioned, of schools for the education of the lower classes, we shall beg leave more especially to state herein the principal establishments for that purpose, as they are more particularly connected with the subject of this report. They are the Protestant Charter Schools, the Blue Coat Hospital, the Foundling Hospital, the Hibernian School, and the Marine School, besides those of private foundation, amounting in number to about 60, as appears in our thirteenth report, and which we deem it unnecessary to recapitulate here.

In the Charter Schools, 39 in number, 2,251 children were, at the time of making our report upon those institutions, lodged, clothed, maintained, and educated, at an average expense of 13*l.* 4*s.* each; and on a very strict inquiry, in the course of which all those schools were visited and examined, under the direction of this Board, by most respectable persons, it appeared, as we had the satisfaction of reporting to your Grace, that they were in a flourishing state, the education in them efficacious and practical, and in every respect such as to put it beyond the reach of private defamation, or public censure.

In the Blue Coat Hospital, we found that 130 boys were maintained and clothed, instructed in English, Euclid, Navigation, and various branches of practical mathematics, in which several of them had made very considerable proficiency; and they receive, besides, a religious education.

This institution is under the direction of the Corporation of the city of Dublin, and the expense amounts to about 16*l.* per annum, for the clothing and maintenance of

* The numbers mentioned throughout this report, are those returned to us at the period of making our former reports, and we believe, will be found to be less than the present number in these public establishments.

each boy, to which, if the expenses of the establishment be added, it will give an addition of 8*l.* per annum for each boy.

The Foundling Hospital, designed principally to save the lives of those children who would otherwise perish in consequence of the poverty or profligacy of their parents, receives infants from the time of their birth, provides them with nurses in the country, and at a certain age receives them back, and maintains, clothes, and educates them, till fit to be apprenticed; the average number of infants admitted yearly being upwards of 2,000, and the very great care taken of them having diminished the mortality incident to the age, and the very unfavourable circumstances under which they are brought to the hospital, about 400 will annually return, at the age of eight years, to the Institution, to be educated; accommodation for 1,600 should therefore be provided, with funds adequate to the support, even on the supposition that so great a number as 400 can be annually apprenticed from it, and that too at the early age of 12 years.

The establishment denominated Wilson's Hospital, was founded by a gentleman of that name, who bequeathed estates, producing at present upwards of 3,000*l.* per annum, for the maintenance of a certain number of old men, and a number of boys, not exceeding 150 boys. The estates of this charity will soon rise very considerably, and the trustees will be enabled to increase the number of boys, which, at the time of making our report, amounted to 107, and to extend the plan of education, so as to render this Institution eminently useful.

The Hibernian Marine School, which is supported principally by Parliamentary grants, and which was instituted for the maintenance

and education of the children of soldiers, contains 300 boys, and half that number of girls, and affords to that destitute class the protection which is so justly due; this establishment is soon to be considerably augmented, and to receive such improvements as will render it in every respect complete.

The Hibernian Marine School, which is supported also by Parliamentary grants, was designed for the purpose of maintaining and educating the children of seamen, and contained, when we made our report, only 110 boys, though there are accommodations for 160; and on this charity, so important to a maritime country, we have been obliged to make a report to your Grace, which we are unwilling here to repeat, and which, we hope, were an inquiry now to be instituted, it would be in our power to alter to one more satisfactory.

Thus it appears from the Reports which we have already presented to your Grace, that there are 23 endowed Classical Schools in Ireland, besides several others of private foundation, which are mentioned in our Report, (No. 12.) the emoluments of which amount to about £9,000 per annum, and the number of scholars educated in them to nearly 1,000.

And that, exclusive of the parish schools, in the city of Dublin, and of other schools in different places, supported by endowments, (which latter we do not here recapitulate, as they are contained in our Report, No. 13,) there are 44 public establishments for the education of the lower classes, in which upwards of 4200 children are lodged, maintained, clothed, and educated, at an annual expence of about £70,000.

In the course of the various and very extensive examination, which our inquiries into the management

of those numerous establishments have let us into, we beg leave to assure your Grace, that we have anxiously sought to obtain such information as might enable us to submit to your Grace an accurate account of the nature and extent of the instruction, which the schools frequented by the children of the lower classes in this country usually afford, and of the effect upon the principles and morals of that important part of the community, likely to be produced by the education received in them; directing our attention especially to such circumstances as might indicate the most practicable improvements, and the manner in which they may be attempted with the greatest probability of success.

The most important facts with which we have become acquainted in the course of these inquiries, we now beg leave to lay before your Grace; and to submit the outline of a plan, which we conceive to be calculated to extend to the lower classes such education as is suited to their station in society, so far at least as seems to us attainable in the present circumstances of this country.

Returns have been communicated to us from 17 dioceses, out of the 22, into which Ireland is divided; and from them it appears, that exclusive of the charitable institutions, there are 3,736 schools in these dioceses, in which are taught 162,467 children, of which number 45,490 are Protestants, and 116,977 Roman Catholics; of the school-masters, 1,271 are Protestants, and 2,465 Roman Catholics.*

Hence we collect, as these dioceses may be estimated to contain four-fifths of the population of Ireland, that the whole number of

schools (including the parochial schools,†) amounts to 4,600, and the scholars taught in them to 200,000, being an average of 43 to each school; and as these returns were made generally in the winter, when many children are unable to attend, and as itinerant school-masters (whose number is very considerable,) are frequently not included in them, we are confident that more than 200,000 children of the poorer classes receive annually such instruction as the schools afford.

That instruction, except in a very few instances, extends no farther than reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic; and the prices paid are on an average ten shillings per annum for reading, seventeen shillings and four-pence, where writing, and one pound six shillings where arithmetic is added: but even this limited instruction the masters are in general very ill-qualified to give, having been themselves taught in schools of a similar description, and consequently deficient in information, unacquainted with regular plans of education, and unaccustomed to that discipline, from the steady and temperate enforcement of which some of the best advantages of education are derived.

The poverty of the lower classes of the people, which limits the recompence of the masters to the low rates above mentioned, and thus holds out no temptation to a better class to undertake the office of instructors, produces effects, if possible, still worse, by incapacitating them from purchasing such books as are fit for children to read; whence it frequently happens, that instead of being improved by religious and moral instruction, their minds are corrupted by books calculated to

* Appendix, No. 1.

† Appendix, No. 2.

incite to lawless and profligate adventure, to cherish superstition, or to lead to dissention or disloyalty.

From the facts here stated, we conceive it clearly to appear, that the lower class of the people in Ireland are extremely anxious to obtain instruction for their children, even at an expense, which, though small, very many of them can ill afford; and there is a circumstance to which we beg leave to call your Grace's attention, that puts this desire in a yet stronger point of view; we mean the existence of evening schools, established (and in one parish there are eleven of them,) for the instruction of those children, whose service during the day, their parents could not afford to lose.

Were it therefore even admitted that the benefits of education are not to the lower classes of the people, as great as we conceive them to be, yet the necessity of assisting in obtaining it for them in this country would not be diminished, but increased; for such education as has been objected to, under the idea of its leading to evil rather than to good, they are actually obtaining for themselves; and though we conceive it practicable to correct it, to check its progress appears impossible. It may be improved, but it cannot be impeded.

To substitute for the ill-taught and ill-regulated schools which we have been describing, a systematic and uniform plan of instruction, such as should gratify the desire of information, which manifests itself among the lower classes of the people of Ireland, and at the same time form those habits of regularity and discipline, which are yet more valuable than mere learning, it appears to us necessary, that commissioners should be appointed, with extensive powers, as we shall more fully describe in the subsequent parts of this Report.

With respect to the selection of these commissioners, it does not appear to belong to us to enter into any particular suggestions: that on their abilities, liberality, and prudence, and on the general confidence to be placed in them, the success of the plan will depend, we deem it almost superfluous to remark.

We recommend that, in the first place, those commissioners be instructed to apply to the governors of all the existing establishments for the education of the lower classes, wherever the information which has been received by us shall appear to be insufficient, and to require from them returns of the several institutions over which they preside, such as may enable them to ascertain in what districts supplementary schools, to be put under the direction of Protestant or Roman Catholic masters, as the circumstances of the case may render eligible, are most immediately necessary, which schools the commissioners should be empowered to found, to endow, and to regulate. The check which the existing schools would receive, were the superintendence of them to be transferred to the proposed commissioners: the difficulty of changing long-settled establishments, and the waste of time to the commissioners, who would be much more profitably employed in forming new seminaries, than in altering old ones, induce us strongly to recommend, that the institutions which now exist should remain under their present managers; and that the spirit of improvement, already manifested among them, should be left to operate undisturbed, under the influence of that emulation which the new establishments would naturally excite.

For the purpose of ascertaining more exactly the number of those supplementary schools: for selecting proper situations for erecting and es-

tablishing them where wanted: for prescribing the mode of education to be pursued: and for the general superintendence of them, we are of opinion, that a Board of Commissioners, as above-mentioned, should be appointed, under the authority of an Act of Parliament, empowering them to receive and dispose of Parliamentary grants for building and endowing schools; to purchase or accept conveyances for the sites of such schools; to decide, in the last resort, on the appointment, conduct, and dismissal of masters; to prescribe the course and mode of education; to provide for the expense of furnishing books; and to have a general controul over the whole of the proposed establishments for the instruction of the lower classes.

The first object which we would recommend to the attention of this Board, would be, as we have already mentioned, to ascertain from the information which they will collect, as well as from the examination of that already in our possession, in what situations it may be proper to proceed to the establishment of supplementary schools. It may, at this early period, be premature to attempt to form any estimate of the expense of founding and endowing such schools, as the number that may be required can be but vaguely conjectured; we may, however, be allowed, from a view of the scale upon which the Governors of Erasmus Smith's Schools are now proceeding in the foundation of similar establishments, and which seems to have been adopted on sufficient consideration, to estimate, that each school would be a charge on the government of about 500*l.* for building, exclusive of the purchase of sites, and an annual salary of 30*l.* for the master of each.

Some time, perhaps, must elapse, before the Commissioners can have

procured the necessary information, to prepare them for entering on the part of their duty we have been last describing. But that interval may be most usefully employed, in forwarding a measure of the highest importance to the success of any plan of national instruction; we mean, that of preparing a sufficient number of teachers, competently qualified to convey that instruction; we have already adverted to the deplorable want of such qualification in a great majority of those who now teach in the common schools, and to the pernicious consequences arising from it; their ignorance, we have reason to believe, is not seldom their least disqualification; and the want of proper books often combines with their own opinions and propensities, in introducing into their schools such as are of the worst tendency. Even for schools of a superior description, and under better controul, there is a general complaint, that proper masters cannot be procured, without much difficulty; and we are persuaded, that a more essential service could not be rendered to the State, than by carrying into effect a practicable mode of supplying a succession of well-qualified instructors for the children of the lower classes. It fortunately happens, that there are in this country existing establishments, as well Roman Catholic as Protestant, which, we are persuaded, might, with little difficulty, give effectual assistance towards this great national purpose. This the Commissioners would find no difficulty in arranging with the Governors of the several Institutions. In such arrangements, and indeed in the whole of this part of the scheme, much will of course depend upon the discretion of the Commissioners, and we recommend, that they should be directed and required to apply themselves immediately to

the preparing a sufficient number of well qualified masters, to undertake the conduct of such supplementary schools, as they should, from time to time, proceed to endow; the progress would naturally be gradual, and time would thus be allowed for competent masters to be prepared for them.

In their choice of situation, for the supplementary schools, the Commissioners should be directed not solely by the apparent necessity for them, for the want of proper, or of any schools; but partly by the facilities afforded for a proper establishment for the master, and partly by the prospect of their succeeding to such a degree, as to hold out example and encouragement for their farther progress and success.

We are willing to hope, that in schools thus advantageously situated, the general adoption of, and a steady adherence to, a course of education manifestly superior in its mode and objects of instruction, and uniting a careful attention to moral and religious principles, with an evident purpose of respecting the peculiar tenets of different sects of Christians, would excite at first in their immediate neighbourhood, and by degrees in every part of Ireland, a strong prepossession in favour of such establishments, and effectually obviate any prejudices that might have been entertained against them.

During the period in which the Commissioners may be employed in the preparatory inquiries already alluded to, their attention may also be directed to the selection of proper books for the use of all the schools under their management; it being our opinion, that nothing should be taught in any of them, without the express approbation of the Commissioners, nor any book introduced, which has not been sanctioned by them; and from the execution of

this part of the plan, we anticipate advantages of the utmost importance to the whole country, inasmuch as we cannot doubt, that the books thus prepared, will, by degrees, be universally adopted in every school, whether public or private; and while education is thus facilitated, by a uniform system of instruction, the evil arising from the want of proper books, adapted to the inferior schools, will be removed, and the children no longer exposed to the corruption of morals, and perversion of principles, too often arising from the books actually in use.

In such selection of books for the new schools, we doubt not but it will be found practicable to introduce not only a number of books, in which moral principles will be inculcated in such a manner, as is likely to make deep and lasting impression on the youthful mind, but also ample extracts from the Sacred Scriptures themselves, an early acquaintance with which, we deem of the utmost importance, and indeed indispensable in forming the mind to just notions of duty, and sound principles of conduct.

It appears to us, that a selection may be made, in which the most important parts of sacred history shall be included, together with all the precepts of morality, and all the instructive examples by which those precepts are illustrated and enforced, and which shall not be liable to any of the objections which have been made to the use of the Scriptures in the course of education.

The study of such a volume of extracts from the Sacred Writings would, in our opinion, form the best preparation for that more particular religious instruction, which it would be the duty, and, we doubt not, the inclination also, of their several ministers of religion, to give, at

proper times, and in other places, to the children of their respective congregations.

To enter into a minute detail, or to define the limits of the instruction to be given in those schools, or the manner in which it ought to be communicated, we deem not within our province, but to belong to the duty of the Commissioners, whose appointment we have proposed, as the first step towards establishing a better system of education for the children of the lower orders of the people: at first, we reckon that instruction will be confined to reading, writing, and the common rules of arithmetic, taught at different prices, and with a free option to the parents to have their children instructed in one or all of them. Time and experience will determine the expediency, and the means of giving, to such as may desire it, a more enlarged course of education, and of providing for those whose talents may deserve it, that instruction which their poverty might place beyond their reach: but we are of opinion, that more advantage will at present result from giving a limited education to a considerable number, than from providing a better system for a few, particularly as masters qualified for the latter purpose could scarcely be procured; and we anticipate, as the first and most certain fruits of the appointment of these Commissioners, the selection and publication of a number of books for the use of the schools which they establish, a prompt and liberal supply of which to the schools at present in existence, will produce immediate and beneficial effects.

Having thus laid before your Grace the result of our deliberations, we beg leave to represent to your Grace, that it seems most expedient to make a trial, upon a limited scale, of what is here proposed,

and to suggest, that the Commissioners above-mentioned should at first proceed to erect only a small number of schools in different parts of Ireland, upon the plans that have been recommended in this report, trusting that such an experiment will throw new light upon the subject; will tend to promote what may be generally advantageous, and to correct the errors which unavoidably attend new institutions.

In concluding this subject, we conceive it may be satisfactory to your Grace, that such papers, communicated to the Board by its members, as contain more detailed circumstances applicable to the subject of general education, should be added as an Appendix to this Report; not meaning, however, thereby to indicate any approbation of their contents, further than as has already appeared in this Report.

Having arrived at this advanced stage of our labours, we think it an act of indispensable justice, to bear testimony, in the strongest manner, to the zealous exertions of our Secretary, John Corneille, Esq: from whose indefatigable pains, capacity, and accuracy, we have derived very efficient services towards the accomplishment of our multifarious inquiries.

We have not found it necessary to use the powers given by the Act establishing this Board, of appointing a second Secretary, inasmuch as Mr. Corneille has devoted his time for years in assisting our complicated investigations, with the most willing application, and the most exemplary fidelity.

We consider the small salary of his office, as a return altogether inadequate to his distinguished services; and as this has been a great national undertaking, we beg leave earnestly to recommend him to your Grace's notice, in order that he may

obtain from the Government some permanent appointment, as an adequate reward for his past services.

(Signed)

WILLIAM ARMAGH,	(L.S.)
CHARLES CASHEL,	(L.S.)
JAMES KILLALLA,	(L.S.)
ISAAC CORRY,	(L.S.)
T. ELINGTON, <i>Provost</i> ,	(L.S.)
RICHARD LOVELL EDGEWORTH,	(L.S.)
JAMES WHITLAW,	(L.S.)
J. LESLIE FOSTER,	(L.S.)

Dublin, October 30, 1812.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

SINCE the introduction of the vaccine inoculation, I have been uniformly a friend to the measure, and am now fully persuaded of its success. Considering the powerful efficiency of this safe and simple preservative, it is much to be regretted that it is not universally employed. In many parts, the *small-pox* inoculation is still used, to the manifest danger of all children within the reach of one of the most virulent disorders with which we are acquainted. Quere: should not the legislature and the magistracy interpose, with a powerful hand, to stop the progress of such an evil?

Notwithstanding, however, the preference which I give to the vaccine inoculation, one difficulty strongly presses on my mind; and I should be very happy, that some of your medical correspondents would be able to remove my scruples. I shall here briefly submit them to public consideration.

It is generally allowed, that in order to have infection of a good quality, it is necessary that it should be taken from a healthy subject. If a child has any eruption on its skin, or appears to be under the influence of any considerable distemper, we pass it by, and prefer taking the

vaccine fluid from the arm of a child who appears to be in perfect health. Now, I will improve on this suggestion, merely by extending its application. Children, we know, have often hereditary complaints; and though, at an early period, they may appear to be perfectly strong and healthy, they often bear the seeds of disease, decline and death in their constitutions, which will, at length, rack and destroy the human frame. Would we choose to have our children inoculated with infection procured from such subjects as these? Would we not apprehend the communication of that hereditary taint, which has existed in the family? I confess, that until I am better informed, I would not have my children vaccinated from infection which I am thus led to consider impure.

Nor do I express myself without consideration on this point. One remarkable case in point has presented itself to my observation: A child born of very healthy parents, was, for six or eight weeks, as strong and healthy as possible. No child could thrive better. It was vaccinated; and very soon thereafter discovered symptoms of disease. It was quickly covered with a violent and incurable eruption. In various respects, the child is still very sickly, weak, and disordered. The physician who attended says, the child's complaints did not originate in the inoculation; but until the gentlemen of the faculty will show me, that no other disease than that which accompanies the vaccine inoculation, is, or can be produced, I must entertain very strong suspicions.

Your's, &c. VACCINATOR.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

I AGREE very fully with your correspondent S. M'S. in his ob-